THE 35TH DESSERT

ROOKIE MANGAKA GRAND PRIZE EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

DEBUT!

A STORY AT THE MIDST OF YOUTH, 36P

The strongest rookie, making the first appearance in The Dessert!!

The days when I laugh and the days when I cry, there are words I want to tell you who has been by my side.

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まっすぐ君へ

Mitsui Haruka Presents

デビュー後第1作目です!

満井春香

Mitsui Haruka
Massugu Kimi e

We're back with another one shot from Mitsui Haruka-sensei.
This time, it's a short sweet story about discovering the person that is right beside you all along.
We hope you enjoy this one shot from sensei as with her previous works that we've scanlated.
Happy reading!

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YA NO ESTAMOS ACEPTANOO SOLICITUOES OE RETRAOUCCIÓN OE NINGÚN TIPO, TAMPOCO POOEMOS OARLES NUESTROS ESCANEOS SIN NUESTRA MARCA OE AGUA.

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(UNDER RECRUITMENT SECTION)

HEY, NATSUKI.
STOP LEANING SO MUCH,
WE'LL FALL.
THERE, IF WE TAKE THAT WAY IT'LL BE A SHORTCUT.
WHAT, HERE?!
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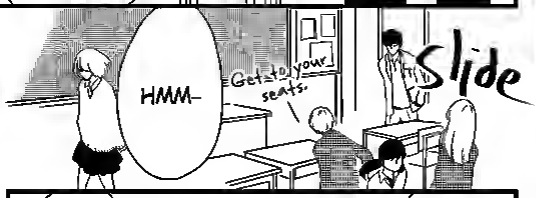
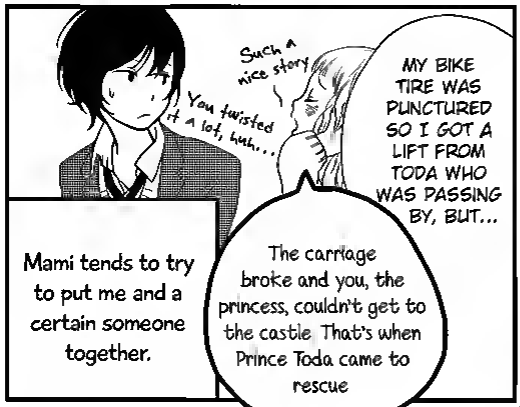
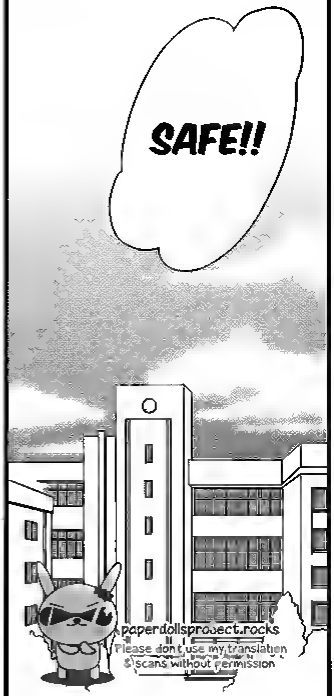
YEA, I CRASHED INTO AN UNBELIEVABLE FOREST THIS MORNING, THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOME-ONE.
WHAT HAPPENED, TODA?
WE MADE IT IN TIME THOUGH~ ♪
DID YOU GO THROUGH A JUNGLE?


HMM-
Get to your seats.
Slide

WHA-
WHY? WAIT A SECOND!
WHY NOT JUST GO OUT ALREADY?
ARRIVING TOGETHER LIKE THAT,


Such a nice story
You twisted it a lot, huh...
MY BIKE TIRE WAS PUNCTURED SO I GOT A LIFT FROM TODA WHO WAS PASSING BY, BUT...
Mami tends to try to put me and a certain someone together.
The carriage broke and you, the princess, couldn't get to the castle. That's when Prince Toda came to rescue


SAFE!!
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3
collapse

I'M NOT GOING!
WHY ARE WE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION?
MAMI WAS TALKING ABOUT IT EARLIER.
I WAS ALSO INVITED FOR SOME REASON, BUT I DECLINED BECAUSE OF CLUB ACTIVITIES.
I ALSO REFUSED, THOUGH!
!!??
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
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YOU WANNA GO, TOO? TO A GOUKON.*
4
*T/N: A GOUKON IS A GET-TOGETHER BETWEEN PEOPLE, USUALLY WITH THE PURPOSE OF FINDING SOMEONE TO DATE.
YOU'RE QUITE COMPOSED EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND.
EVEN IF I HAD ONE, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'D BE HAPPY.
Because I'm already completely happy.

まっすぐ君へ

PLEASE!!
It'd be better if they just left me like this.
YOU'RE THE ONE SAYING THAT!
HEY.
LET'S GO, NATSUKI! YOU'RE GOING TO BE CALLED UNFEMININE AGAIN, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHOA
YOU DON'T HAVE BASKETBALL TRAINING TODAY, RIGHT?!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE GOING TO THE GOUKON AND
THUD
SERIOUSLY THOUGH, FOR THE SAKE OF REHABILITATION, LET'S GO.
That's right!
WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

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I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK HER SO I'M GONNA BORROW HER FOR A SEC.
OK
Uh...
SORRY.
gasp
gasp
What did you want to ask!!
AH~
I FORGOT.
Huh?
WELL, LET'S GO.
CLATTER
.....
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YEA.
So, even Toda has these sides to him.
Maybe...
THANKS, YOU SAVED ME!
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SOMEHOW, I'M NO GOOD.
I KNOW THAT EVER SINCE I BROKE UP WITH MY EX-BOYFRIEND MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT ME, BUT—
WHY DID YOU BREAK UP?
WELL,
HE FOUND ANOTHER GIRL THAT HE LIKED.
ISN'T THAT BASICALLY CHEATING?
AHAHA, PERHAPS!
BUT, IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME.
.....

"Club activities again?"
I BECAME A REGULAR PLAYER IN MY CLUB, AND IT OVERLAPPED WITH THE SPORT FESTIVAL.
WHICH DECREASED THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER
AND BEING IN DIFFERENT SCHOOLS ONLY MADE IT HARDER TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER.
I THINK HE WAS LONELY FOR SURE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT HE FOUND SOMEONE ELSE...
SLAM
?!
?!
WRONG! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ANGRY!!
IT'S YOUR HARD WORK THAT MADE YOU A REGULAR IN THE TEAM. YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG,
WHY ARE YOU BLAMING YOURSELF?
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NEXT TIME, CHOOSE A GUY WITH A BIG HEART THAT CAN TREASURE YOU.
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ALRIGHT, I'LL TRY MY BEST, DADDY!
HEY!
Oi, you-
YOU SOUND LIKE MY DAD.
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BECAUSE I LEARNED HOW TO FEEL OTHER'S PAIN.
WHEN I THINK OF IT NOW, IT WASN'T THAT BAD
HAD A TOUGH TIME WHEN I BROKE UP WITH MY EX.
I ALSO

Eh?
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE FINE.
That's why?
You can't see me right?
I'm even suppressing my voice.
Toda
took a detour and rode the bicycle without saying anything.
Realizing that he was doing this until my tears stopped,
made me cry even more.
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まっすぐ君へ
最近のわたし
はじめまして。昔、好きな男子との自転車2ケツに憧れ、友人子と実行にケツを。先生に見つかり「どうして止まらない！」と怒られました。「一」止まんないです!!
おたよりください
あて先 〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽 講談社 デザート編集部気付 満井春香 先生
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY!
HERE, FOR YOU.
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.....
YOU DON'T WANT IT?
Ahaha SORRY, IT LOOKED TASTY SO I UNINTENTIONALLY ...
DO YOU USUALLY GIVE SOMEONE LEFT-OVERS?
FOR ME, YOU SAY...
YO.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
I DON'T KNOW.
EEH~
Today, somehow, my body feels light.
11

SNAP
I'LL ACCEPT IT!
Thanks
You're welcome...
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a guy that does this kind of stuff?
THA-THAT WAS CLOSE...
Is Toda

He's definitely popular.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT WITH THOSE FIRST YEARS.
Maybe it's a confession ?
EAVESDROPPING IS A BAD HOBBY TO HAVE, NO?
OH, I GOT CAUGHT? I WASN'T TRYING TO INTERFERE THOUGH.
ARE YOU SOMEHOW MISUNDER-STANDING?
I WAS GIVING ADVICE TO A FEW KOUHAI* FROM MY CLUB.
HMM, I SEE, YOU'RE BEING RELIED ON.
That's a relief...
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*T/N: A "KOUHAI" IS A JUNIOR AT WORK, SCHOOL, OR A GROUP.

.....
IT SEEMS LIKE THE GUY SHE BROKE UP WITH BEFORE WANTS TO GET BACK TOGETHER.
IF IT WERE YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
EH, ME?
YEA, TELL ME FOR THE SAKE OF FUTURE REFERENCE.
14
EEEHH ...
That's not gonna happen to me, though.
Hmmm, then I'd have him have his head shaved and apologize first ♪
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But, I guess that would be a bit too much!
Ahaha
BAM
!

I'M ASKING SERIOUSLY HERE.
I WANT TO KNOW.
WHY?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT GIRL.
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EVEN IF I WANTED TO, IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
GETTING BACK TOGETHER IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AND THE SAME GOES FOR GOING BACK TO BEING FRIENDS—
SUCH THINGS LIKE
THAT'S GOOD THEN.
I SEE.

Why
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do you ask such things?
I...
Why am I so relieved?

NATSUKI!
Oh, yes, I wanna go
Wanna go eat donuts?
.....
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slip
NATSU-
...

I'm sorry.
You're working hard-
I have practice on both Saturday and Sunday...
I wonder if he'll be surprised.
He said that he'd go bowling with a friend today.
Lucky! It ended early!
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I realized
what it's like to be in love with someone.

I never want to experience that feeling again.
The more in love you fall,
the deeper the pain will be.
BAM
I'M SORRY, SENPAI!*
NATSUKI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'M FINE! I'M FINE!
I'm also sorry, I was dozing off
Flow

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*T/N: SENPAI IS AN UPPERCLASSMAN, USED IN RELATION TO FELLOW CLASSMATES OF HIGHER LEVEL OR AGE

WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?
IT'S DEPRESSING, YOU KNOW.
THEN, ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING?
I'M NOT AVOIDING YOU.
I'm not upset, why? Aren't you being delusional?
Ahaha
THAT'S GOOD. NOW,
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
... OKAY,

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!
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HERE YOU ARE! PLEASE GIVE THE UNIFORM BACK.
You always forget and go somewhere!!
SORRY.

AH.
YEA,
!
WE'RE FRIENDS.
I–
I SEE.

UH–
LIM,
ARE THE TWO OF YOU GOING OUT?

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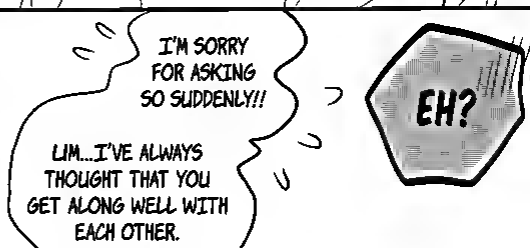
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING SO SUDDENLY!!
LIM...I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU GET ALONG WELL WITH EACH OTHER.
EH?

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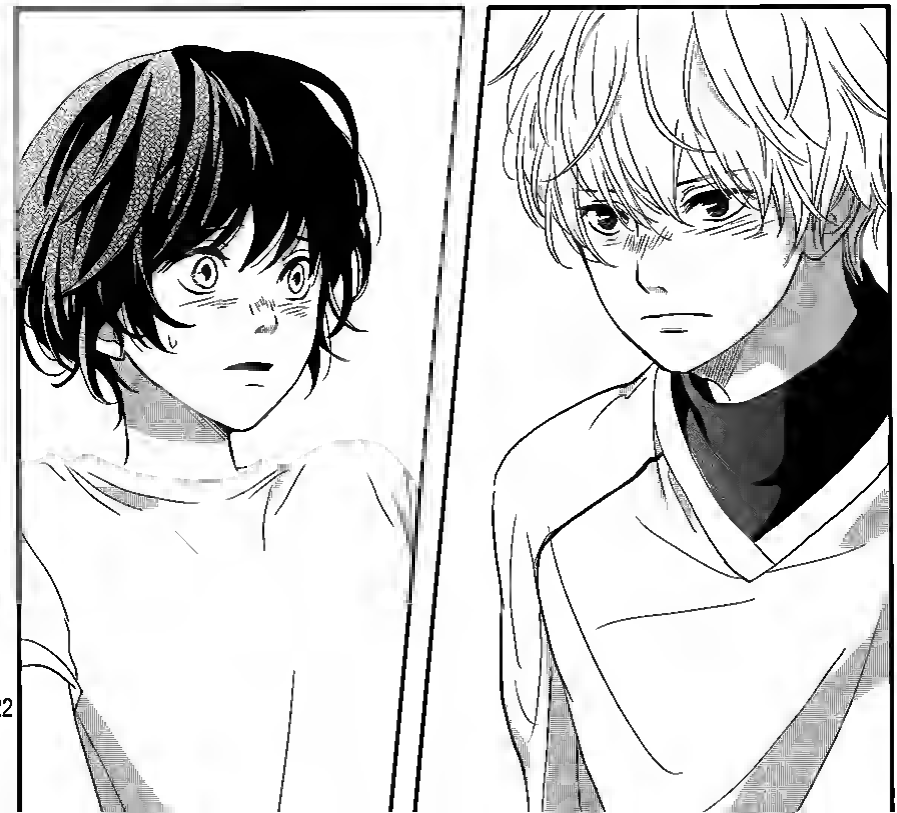

まっすぐ君へ
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN?
?
?
... UH
THAT-
I DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT!!
SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU.
WAH!
I SEE.
.....
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This is good.
It's supposed to be good.
Senpai, wait for me!

How weird.
It feels as if I'm surrounded by darkness.
24
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AH.
They ran away!
AT LEAST THEY FEEL GUILTY.
HAHA
They're still together...
Those two...
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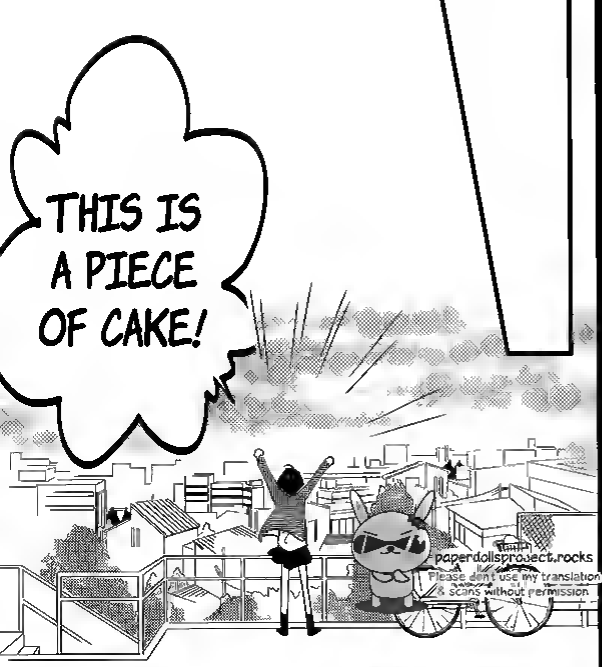

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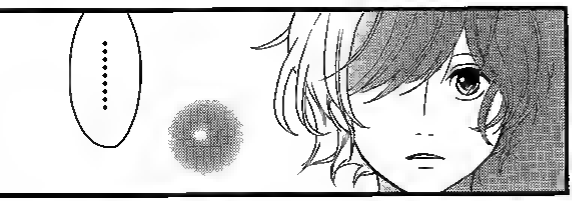

I, even when looking at those two, I feel perfectly fine—!

The reason I can think that I'm fine now
is because Toda was there for me.
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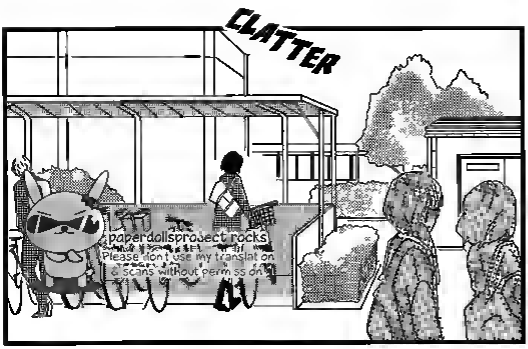

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LET'S GO THROUGH THE BACK GATE.
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HMM,
Please give me a lift~
OKAY, JUST TO THE TRAIN STATION.
YES.
AREN'T YOU TAKING THE TRAIN?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
YAAAY ♪
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

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WON'T YOU RATHER GET ON THIS ONE INSTEAD?!
EH?!
EH?
BUT, I'M SORR—
I'M BEGGING YOU!!
EEEK
FWIP
WELL ...
WELL, THEN,
NATSUKI?
I- I'M SORRY!
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I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE TODA RIDING A BIKE WITH ANOTHER GIRL.
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UM–
I–
I LIKE YOU, TODA.

I REALIZED IT LONG AGO,
I DIDN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU HATING ME.
BUT THAT MADE IT HARDER FOR ME.
I WAS TOO SCARED SO I AVOIDED YOU.
I'M SORRY.
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THE TRUTH IS,
I WANT TO ALWAYS BE
THE ONE CLOSEST TO YOU!

!!
WON'T YOU LOOK THIS WAY AND TELL ME THAT AGAIN?
I GOT IT, I'LL BELIEVE YOU SO-
OK.
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34
I
LIKE
YOU
...

You who were always gazing at me gave me
WAH-
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I WILL ONLY ALLOW THE ONE I LOVE ON THIS BIKE.

straightforward
courage.

THE END. Thank you for reading!